

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HINCHEY SECURES \$1 MILLION FOR AREA HOSPITALS, \$100,000 FOR BYRDCLIFFE EXHIBITION

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) announced that he has secured \$1.1 million for Ulster County projects in a spending bill the House of Representatives will pass today. The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2002 includes \$500,000 for Kingston Hospital, \$500,000 for Ellenville Regional Hospital, and \$100,000 for the Woodstock Guild of Craftsmen. Hinchey, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, placed these earmarks in the bill.

"Being on the Appropriations Committee has put me in a position to help some very worthy projects," said Hinchey. "It's gratifying to be able to provide direct assistance with this important work."

Kingston Hospital is planning a major capital improvement project that will result in better and more cost-effective patient care for the Ulster County service area. The \$500,000 secured by Hinchey will be used to help cover the cost of expanding the emergency department and the diagnostic imaging center.

"Thanks to Congressman Hinchey's support, this funding will provide approximately 10% of the cost of our planned expansion for Emergency Services and Medical Imaging capabilities," said Kingston Hospital CEO Tony Marmo. "We are extremely grateful to the Congressman for his support of our mission and our programs, which will ultimately enhance our ability to serve our patients and the surrounding community."

Ellenville Regional Hospital's funding will help to pay for the construction of a new emergency room. The original emergency room was relocated because of patient safety code violations. Emergency services are currently occupying six inpatient rooms. The total cost of the new emergency room is expected to be \$1.7 million. The \$500,000 secured by Hinchey will be used for equipment and construction costs.

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"Through the efforts of Congressman Hinchey, the Ellenville Regional Hospital and the community are elated to have the funding necessary for the construction of a new emergency room," said Anne Flanagan, President and CEO of ERH. "This early Christmas present is the linchpin to bringing this project to fruition, allowing us to continue to provide the highest quality of care to the people of Ellenville and the surrounding community."

Hinchey secured \$100,000 for the Woodstock Guild of Craftsmen to aid in the preparation of the Byrdcliffe Centennial Exhibition. Founded by Ralph Radcliffe Whitehead in 1902-03, Byrdcliffe is responsible for the first artists coming to Woodstock and consequently changing the cultural landscape of Woodstock throughout the 20th century. It played a key role in the arts and crafts movement in the United States and is the oldest continuing arts colony in the United States.

The exhibition will open at three sites in Woodstock before traveling to other venues. A version of the exhibition will remain at "White Pines", the home of Byrdcliffe's founder. Hinchey announced a \$25,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant for the exhibition yesterday. The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the project a \$10,000 grant in July.

"We are deeply grateful to Congressman Hinchey and his staff for making this possible," said Carla Smith, Executive Director of the Woodstock Guild. "The Woodstock Guild's long-dreamed-of permanent exhibition in 'White Pines' at the Byrdcliffe Arts Colony will now become a reality and a new destination for visitors to Woodstock and the Hudson Valley. The grant also helps with the 2003 Woodstock opening of the Byrdcliffe Centennial traveling exhibition."